

EPISODE #136

June 22, 1995

The Valley 66 COMIC N E W S

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

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...MEDIA RARE

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LEOLD,
KUPER



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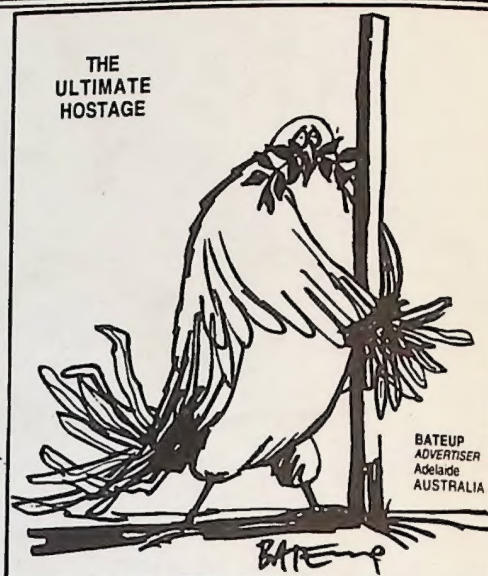
VIEWS OF THE WORLD



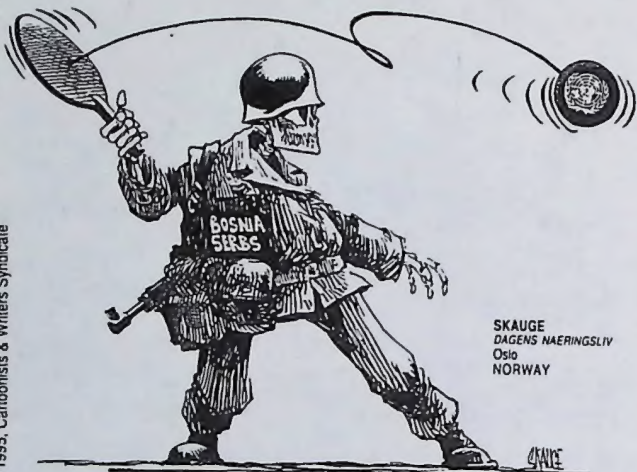
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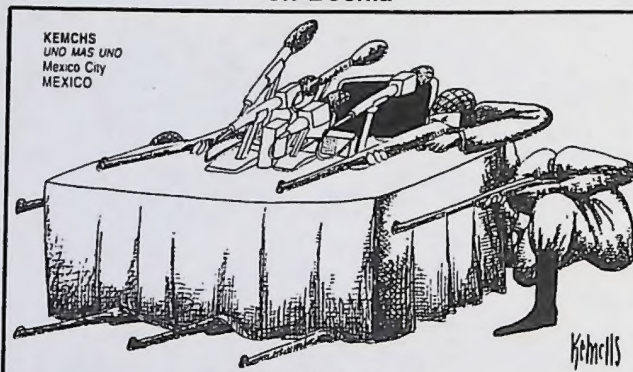


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VIEWS of the WORLD on Bosnia



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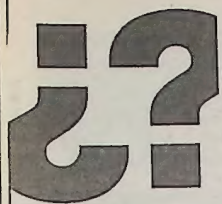
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by Mike Chrisman



Dear Answer Guy,

Q: What's gonna happen when they run out of chalk? Even with computers in the classrooms, teachers still use those squeaky blackboards, and kids still bang erasers together on the front steps. I mean, some day the last pebble from the White Cliffs of Dover is gonna be just a big smudge on some biology prof's sport jacket. Then what do we write with?

A: NASA expects this daunting problem to be solved as a spin-off from the Mars program, although the Mars program remains pretty much on the drawing board. You might not be old enough to remember the "iron scare," when nervous nellies made the same argument about iron. They said, "What will we cook with when all the iron's dug up and there's no more skilletts?" As you know, thanks to NASA we now have Teflon.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I was helping some college students move last month, and you know, you think progress always moves forward, but I gotta tell ya, progress in this one area is in the past, namely, *what ever happened to mattress handles?* Thirty years ago, every time we moved, which was whenever my dad got out of jail again, it was a snap to carry the mattresses up five flights — *they all had handles.* Now they don't. How come?

A: It's clear you've never worked in a hospital emergency room. For years ERs in college towns had to bring on more staff every June and September in anticipation of countless mattress-related moving injuries. Think about it: you're almost to the third-floor landing, with your hand ensnared in a mattress handle. The mattress lurches, and suddenly you're crashing into your roommates, who are six steps below you struggling with the TV.... If there'd been *no* handles on that mattress, you would have simply *let it go*, and then you could have driven your roommates to the hospital, instead of having to go *with* them in the ambulance.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I'm really confused about this millennium business. I'm looking forward to a big celebration, but how do we know when the next millennium starts? My boyfriend says it's the year 2000, but my mom says it's 2001, like the movie. I guess it would help if we knew when they celebrated the end of the first millennium BC, whether it was the year zero or the year one. I never heard about any celebrating like that in the Bible, though, and I used to go to Sunday school a lot. Plus, how did they put the date on, like, insurance forms and summer camp applications back then? Like now you're supposed to fill in the year: 19___. What did they do then? Just ___?

A: You ask intelligent questions. Unfortunately, there are no correct answers. You see, once Einstein discovered that time and space are the same thing — and that the faster you go, the less time goes by — the world might just as well have thrown away its calendars. Because the universe is expanding so quickly, every year since the Big Bang has been longer than the one before. The last three weeks, for example, have dragged on for about 500 years, if you'd been watching from a non-expanding parallel universe. Worse yet, nobody knows *what* will happen when the expansion of our universe reaches the speed of light (estimated to occur on May 14, 1998). It may be that the years 2000 and 2001 will flash by at exactly the same instant. Or it may be that time will slow down so much, those years won't happen at all. Either way, bad news for party-goers.

The Valley Comic News

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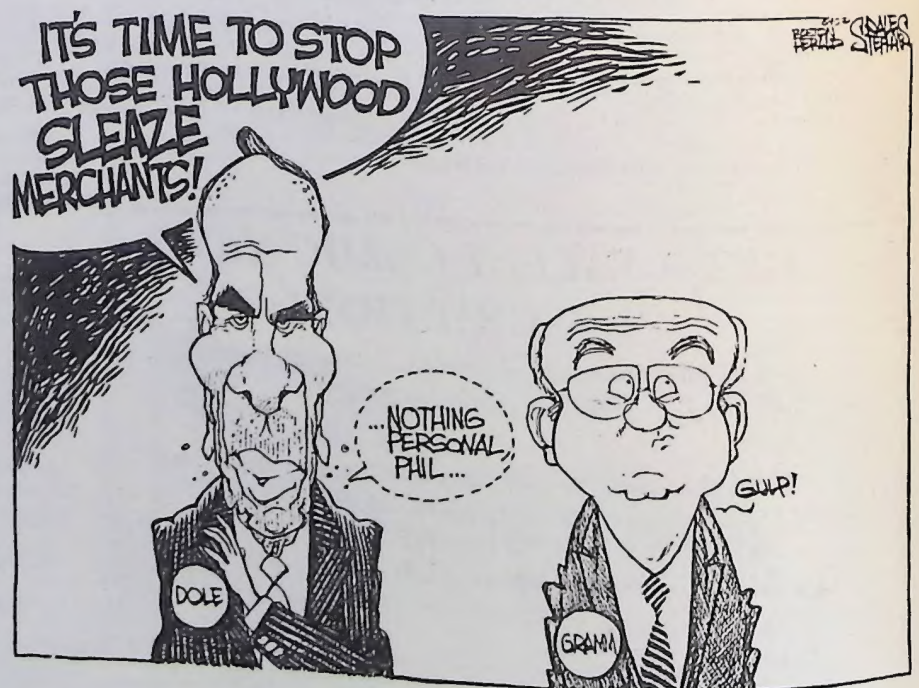
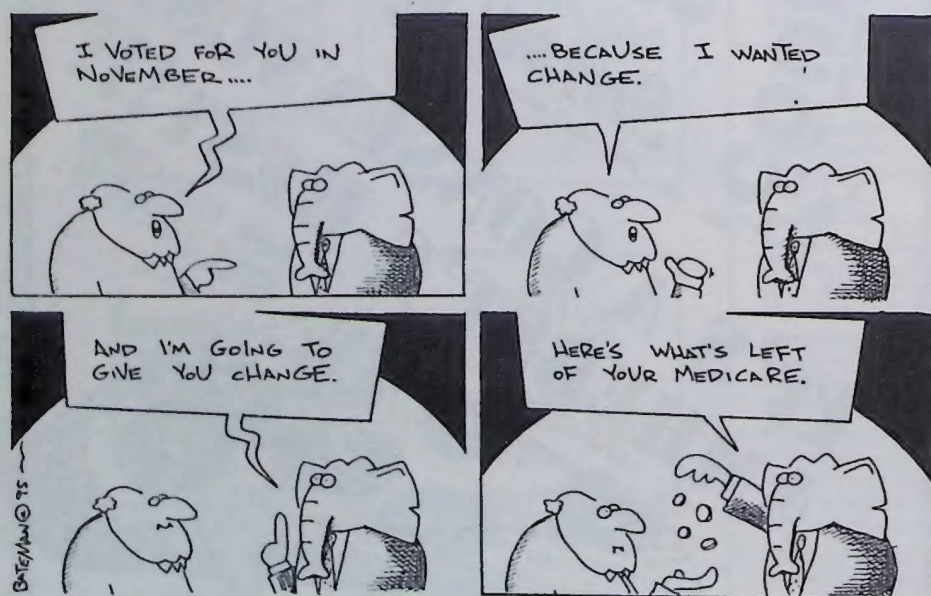
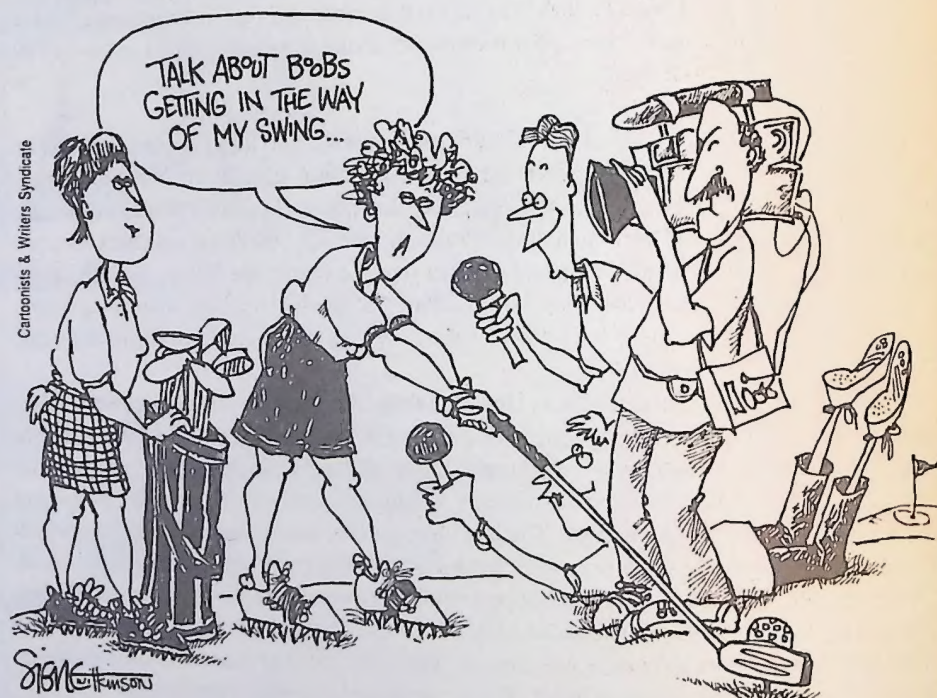
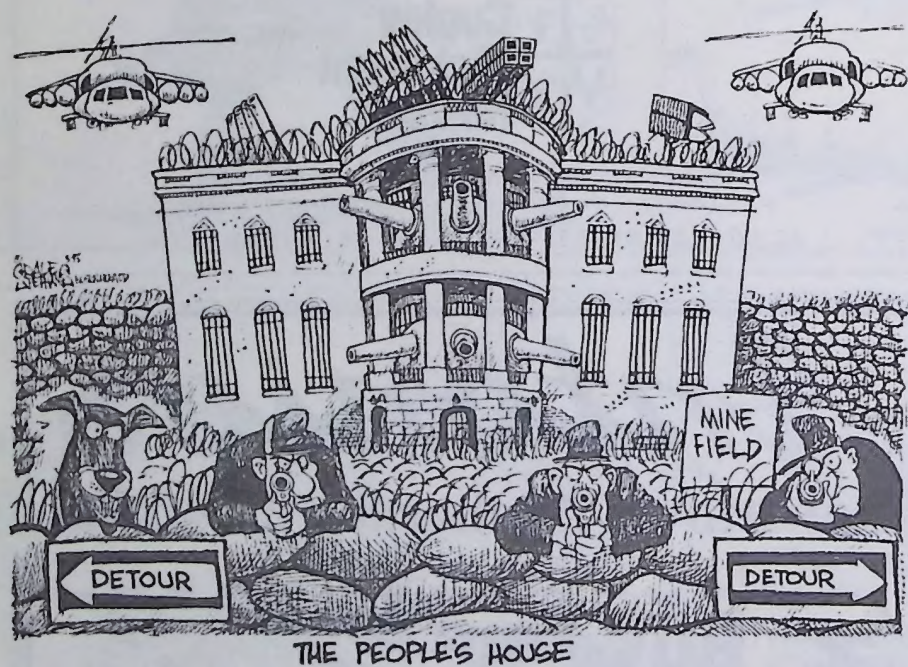
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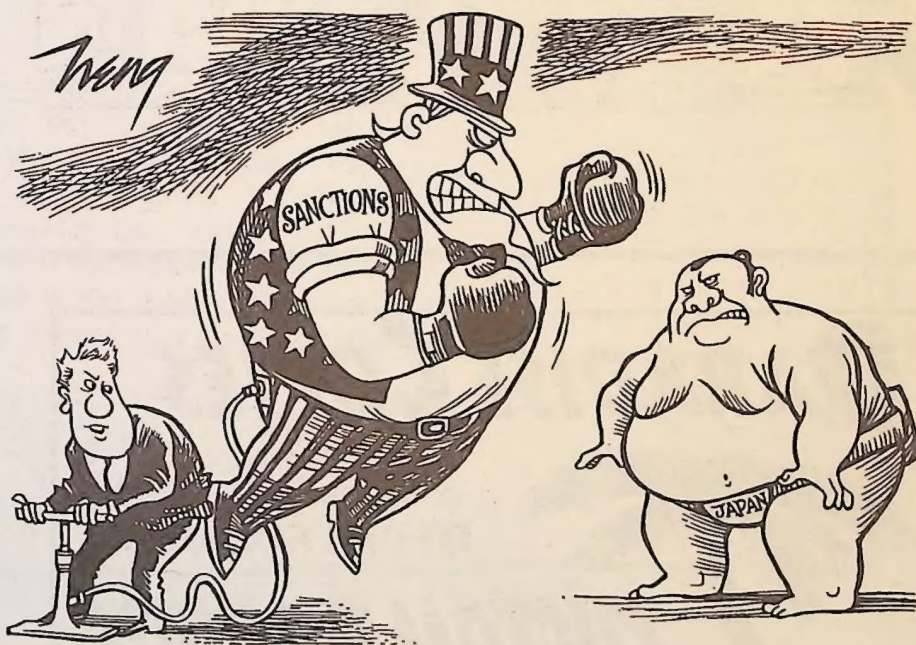
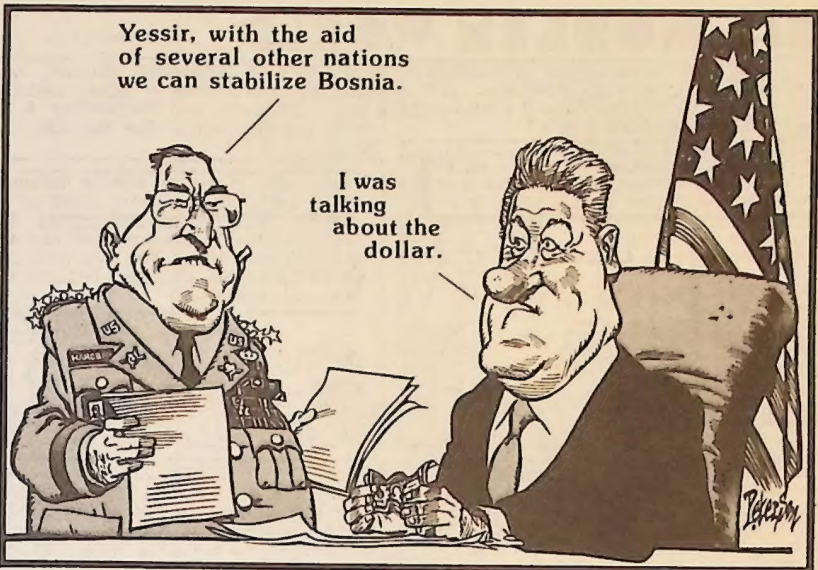
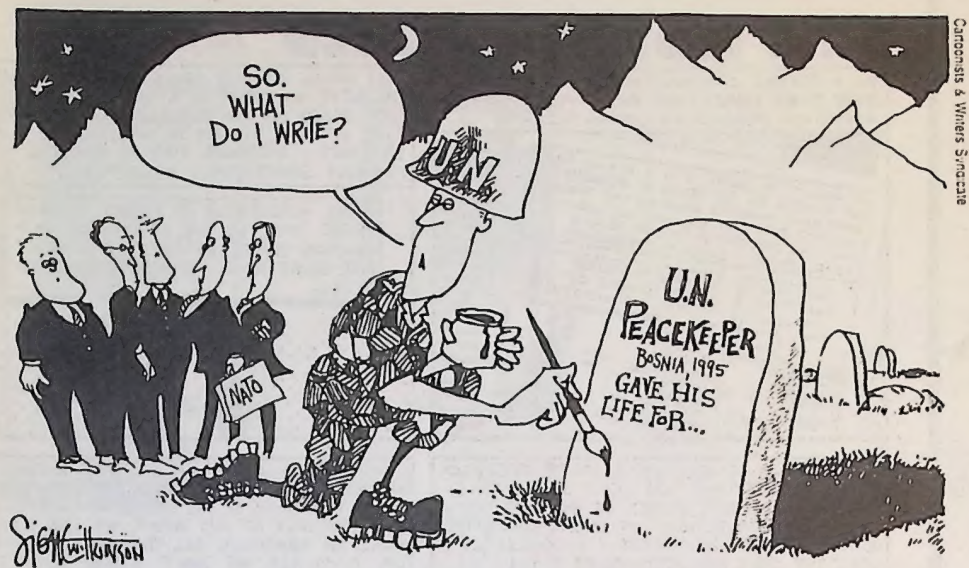
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AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

1M TM-RW-05 31-15

OKAY...THE WELFARE BUREAUCRACY IS UNDENIABLY DEHUMANIZING AND IN NEED OF REFORM...BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD DISMANTLE OUR ENTIRE SOCIAL SAFETY NET?

ABSOLUTELY! ENSURING THE BASIC NEEDS OF SURVIVAL FOR THE WEAK AND INDIGENT MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY--

--IS--LET'S SEE, I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE--

---AH, YES--"A LIBERAL PLOT TO ENCOURAGE DEPENDENCY!"

FRANKLY, WE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW MANY AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE THAT WELFARE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED MAY ONE DAY THEMSELVES NEED A HELPING HAND--CONSIDERING THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR IS WIDER IN THE U.S. THAN IN ANY OTHER WESTERN NATION--

AHEM--"THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF CLASS WARFARE! WHY, THEY--"

OH, GIVE ME THAT.

HEY!

CONSIDER THAT CORPORATE WELFARE RUNS AS HIGH AS \$100 BILLION A YEAR...DWARFING SOCIAL SPENDING AND PRESENTING A MUCH MORE OBVIOUS TARGET FOR THE BUDGETARY AX...

WAIT--HERE IT IS--"CORPORATE SUBSIDIES ARE VITAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH!"

AND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO YOUR CAMPAIGN COFFERS, EH CONGRESSMAN?

HEH, HEH. WHAT A CUTE LITTLE FELLOW. WHO LET YOU IN HERE?

--AND THAT THE FEDERAL RESERVE DELIBERATELY TRIES TO MAINTAIN AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF ABOUT 8 MILLION PEOPLE, TO FORESTALL INFLATION...WHICH, TO PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE, IS MORE PEOPLE THAN LIVE IN NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, AND IOWA COMBINED...

THINK ABOUT THAT THE NEXT TIME YOUR FAVORITE WELL-PAID TALK SHOW HOST STARTS RANTING ABOUT ALL THE BUMS ON WELFARE...

MY BOOK--MUST HAVE MY BOOK--

THIS MODERN WORLD

©TOM TOMORROW 6-7-95

IN A RECENT CARTOON (WHICH RAN IN THE NEW YORK TIMES), WE MADE THE FOLLOWING ASSERTION REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY:

IN REALITY, OF COURSE, IT IS A PAY-AS-YOU-GO SYSTEM ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY...AND MANY WORKERS STARTING OUT TODAY SUSPECT THAT THEY ARE JUST AS LIKELY TO WIN THE LOTTERY AS TO EVER RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS THEMSELVES...

WHY, THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL! WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING THE LOTTERY!

HOWEVER...WE'VE RECEIVED A LOT OF FEEDBACK FROM READERS ON THE LEFT SUGGESTING THAT WE MAY HAVE MISSED THE BOAT ON THIS ONE--THAT PROJECTIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY'S DEMISE ARE BEING GREATLY EXAGGERATED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR REDUCTIONS POSING AS REFORMS--AND THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THAT EFFORT...SO, FOR THE RECORD, WE'D LIKE TO STATE OUR POSITION AS CLEARLY AND SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE...

SOCIAL SECURITY GOOD. CUTS BAD. OKAY?

THAT SOCIAL SECURITY FACES A CRISIS WITHIN THE NEXT 40 YEARS IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF, BASED ON THE POPULAR UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS A SYSTEM IN WHICH EACH GENERATION'S TAXES ARE USED TO PAY THE PREVIOUS GENERATION'S BENEFITS...

--AND INTUITIVELY, IT SEEMS TO MAKE SENSE THAT, AS THE BABY BOOM POPULATION BULGE REACHES RETIREMENT AGE, SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE...

OF COURSE, AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, EVERYONE HAS NUMBERS TO PROVE THEIR ARGUMENTS, AND OF COURSE, NONE OF THE NUMBERS AGREE...AND FRANKLY AT THIS POINT, WE CAN ONLY MAKE AN ADMISSION ALL TOO RARE IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE: WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS HERE...

SOCIAL SECURITY'S NOT IN TROUBLE! THERE'S AN OVERFLOW!

IT SEEMS FLABBY TO ME.

ARE YOU GUYS NUTS? THE WHOLE THING STINKS!

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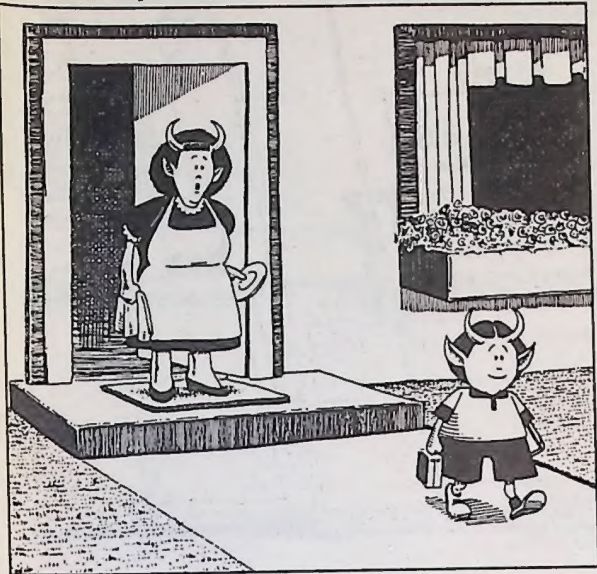
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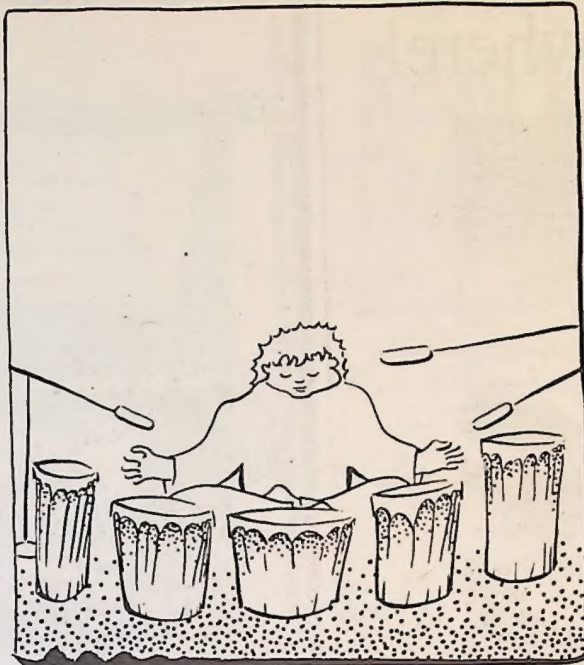
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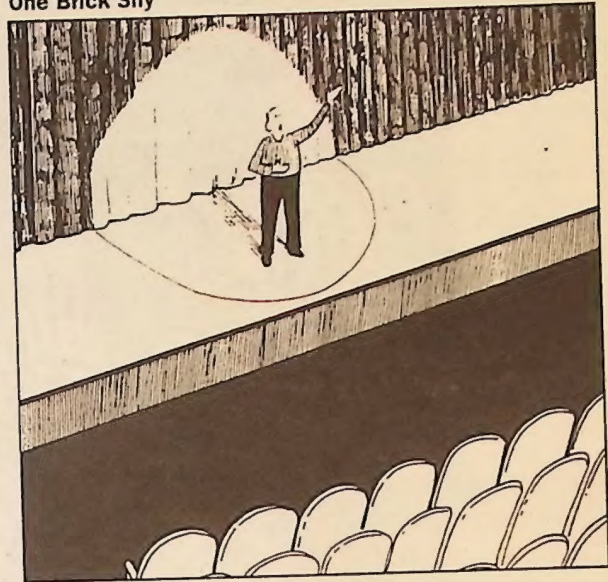


"Now remember, dear, go straight to Hell."



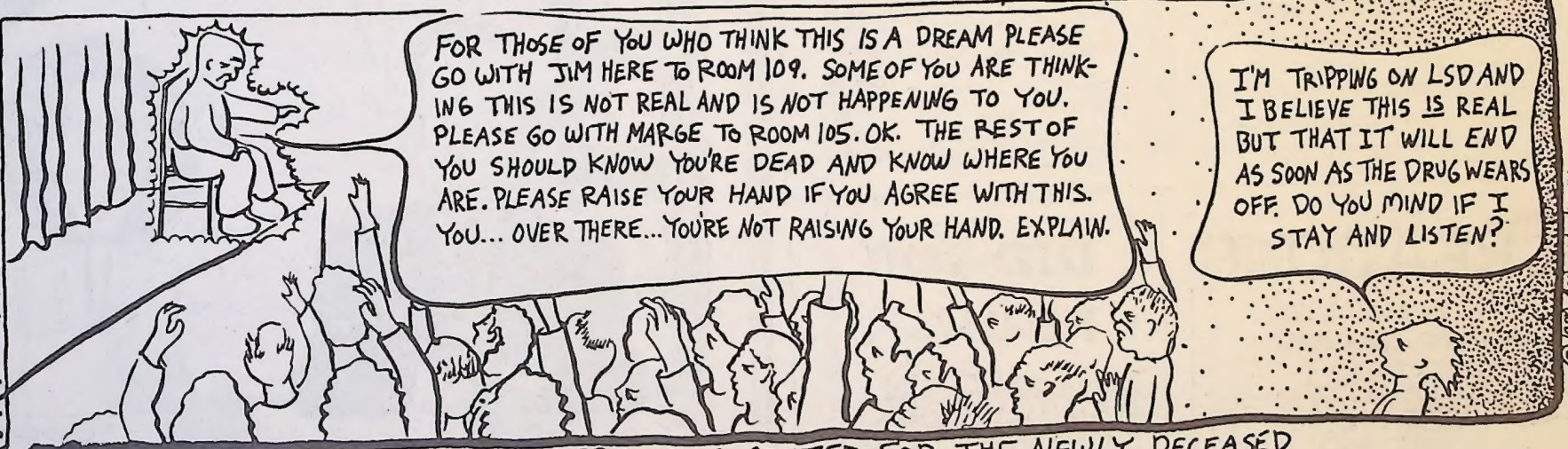
MAURICE, A PERCUSSIONIST, WAS A MUSICIAN OF SILENCES. HE EMPHASIZED THE SPACES BETWEEN THE NOTES. AS HIS REPERTOIRE BECAME RICHER, THE SILENCES GREW LONGER, UNTIL ENRAPPED HE PLAYED MUSIC ALL THE TIME.
OFF THE DEEP END © 1991 Andrew Lehman

One Brick Shy



Oswald acts alone.

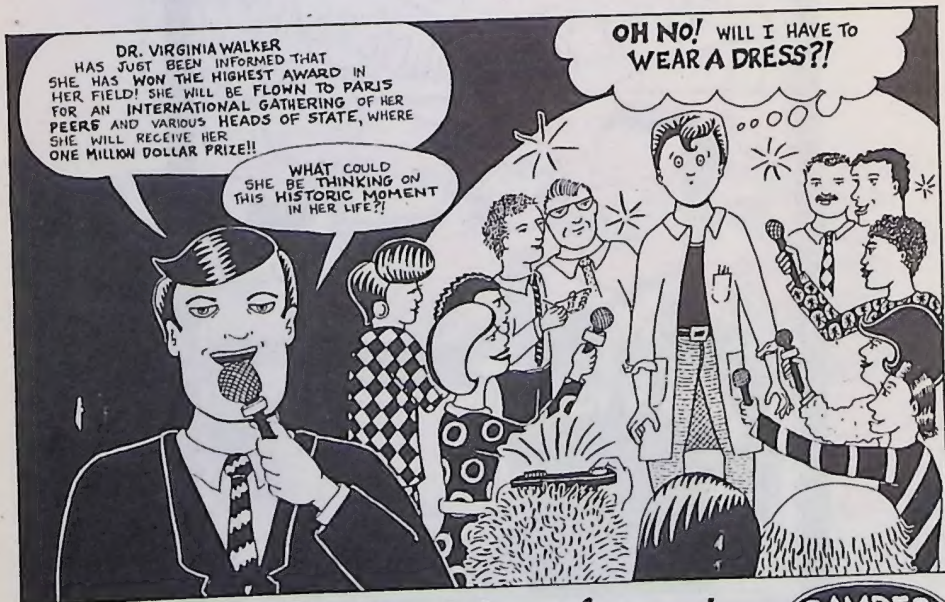
OFF THE DEEP END



FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO THINK THIS IS A DREAM PLEASE GO WITH JIM HERE TO ROOM 109. SOME OF YOU ARE THINKING THIS IS NOT REAL AND IS NOT HAPPENING TO YOU. PLEASE GO WITH MARGE TO ROOM 105. OK. THE REST OF YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU'RE DEAD AND KNOW WHERE YOU ARE. PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS. YOU... OVER THERE... YOU'RE NOT RAISING YOUR HAND. EXPLAIN.

I'M TRIPPING ON LSD AND I BELIEVE THIS IS REAL BUT THAT IT WILL END AS SOON AS THE DRUG WEARS OFF. DO YOU MIND IF I STAY AND LISTEN?

AT THE ASTRAL PLANE DEBRIEFING CENTER FOR THE NEWLY DECEASED



When Dykes Win Awards

CAMPER

Ancient Rome's favorite pastime is threatened by a strike...

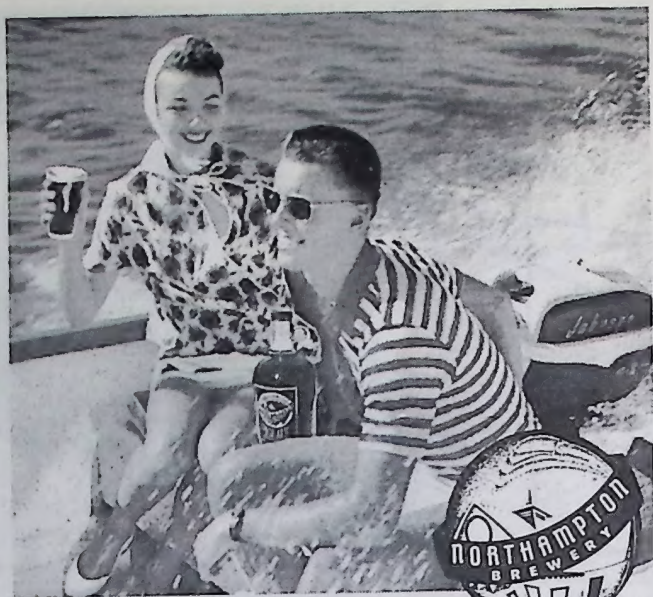
Christians and Lions

Atheists and Kitty cats



© Fawcett 1995

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"Full throttle," Margaret coached emphatically over the roar of the outboard! Tad spared a split second from the how to glance at the ice cold half gallon of Pale Ale. He took another second to notice how beautiful Margie looked with the sun and the wind in her face. "Not for long," Tad

boomed back with a grin, making one of his usual puns replacing "bottle" for "throttle". Margaret just rolled her eyes. She knows that the fresh taste of home brewed beer is for responsible adults... well, responsible adults that want to have fun, anyway!"

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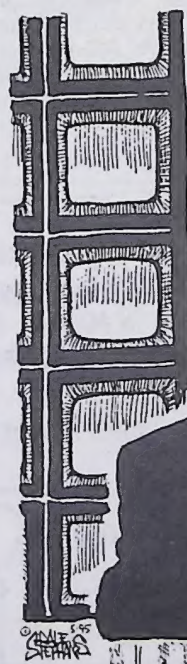
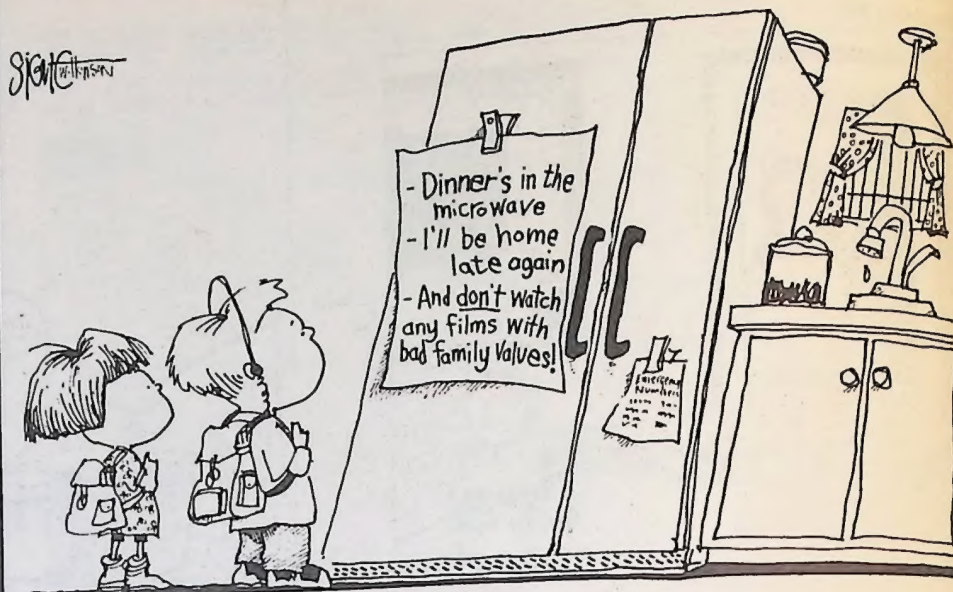
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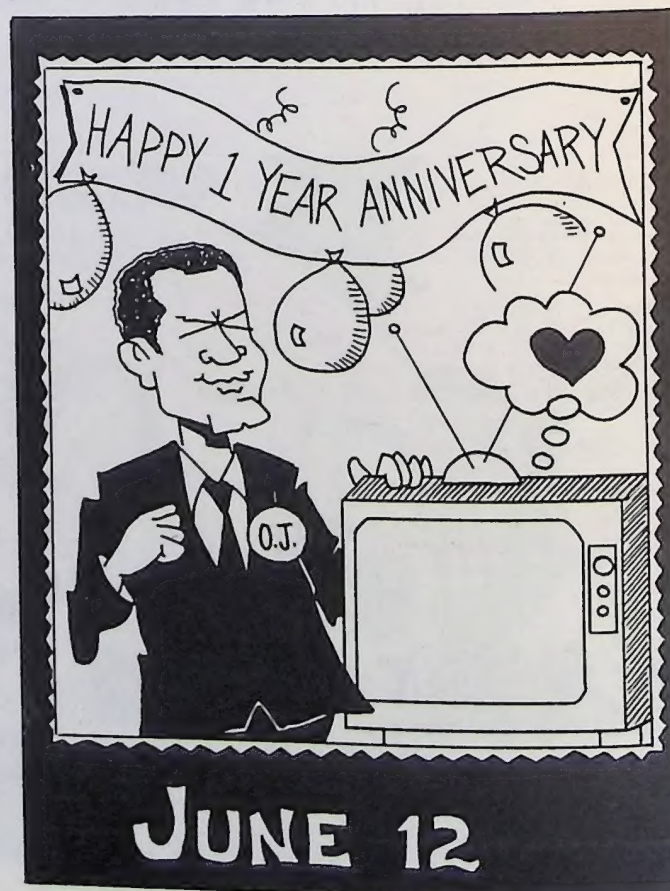
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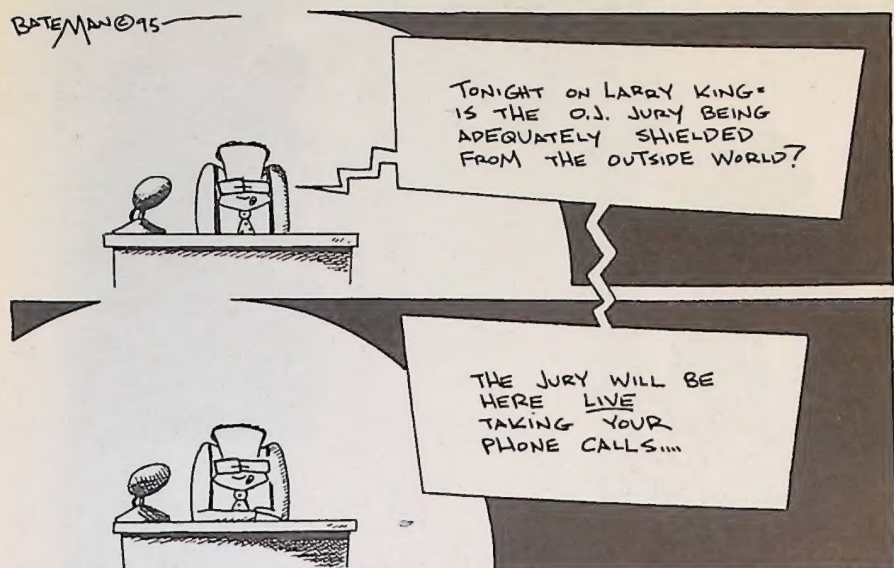
Across from The Brewery in the Maplewood Shops
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...MEDIA RARE

BATEMAN ©95



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The Valley Comic News!!!

(see p. 3 for details)

and then you could go drink some lemonade

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Tad

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X

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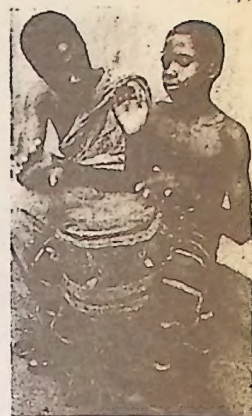
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10 Pearl Street, Northampton

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LISTEN UP 1995



THU
TWENTYTWO

Katina's: Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** Home, Cameron's Way, Technosquid Eats Parliament **Seven O's:** DJ dance club **Fire & Water:** Bud Collins, Matthew Williams & The Troublemakers **Pearl Street:** The Skatalites, Black Rebels, JC Superska, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **Alley Oops:** Karaoke w/ a theme

FRI
TWENTYTHREE

Pearl Street: Heavy Metal Horns, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis **Seven O's:** DJ Stephen Warren **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** live comedy **Bay State Hotel:** Massatuck Hayride, w/ Scud Mt. Boys, The Coyotes, Beacon Hillbillies **Common Ground (Bratt.):** Roots and Spirit Band **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Queen Ida and her Zydeco Band **Jasper's Topside:** D.J. Movin' Mike **Fire & Water:** Star Drooker, Rik Ekstrom & Nick Holmes **Katina's:** K-Funk All Stars **Green River Cafe:** Maple Ridge **Pothole Pictures (Shel. Falls):** 2001: A Space Odyssey **Tri-County Fairgrounds:** Great New England Brewers' Festival

SAT
TWENTYFOUR

Katina's: Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** Lyres, Apples in Stereo, Pollyanna (ex-Sourpuss) **Pearl Street:** Eight To The Bar, plus Top 40 dance party w/ DJ Dave **Tri-County Fairgrounds:** Great New England Brewers' Festival **Common Ground (Bratt.):** Moonboot **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** live comedy — Gay & Lesbian Comedy **Look Park "Pickin' in the Pines":** Bluegrass Day w/ Maple Ridge & many more **Jasper's Topside:** Freeway (live oldies) **Pothole Pictures (Shel. Falls):** 2001: A Space Odyssey **Fire & Water:** Deby Pasternak, Jim Vogel Group **Mt. Holyoke College, Gamble Auditorium:** Richard Ford, reading & booksigning

SUN
TWENTYFIVE

Seven O's: open mic, w/ host Mark Snow **Fire & Water:** Woodstock slides 1994 **Northampton Brewery:** Chet Keefe, Little Jimmy & The Bad Boys **Pearl Street:** Gratitude, The Marshes, Cameron's Way, Vic, Choke, Shed **Tri-County Fairgrounds:** Great New England Brewers' Festival

MON
TWENTYSIX

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Fire & Water:** Open stage (7pm) **Northampton Brewery:** (Women's spotlight series) — The Intentions

TUE
TWENTYSEVEN

Hadley Pub: open mic **Northampton Brewery:** Open mic, w/ host The Mess **Pearl Street:** Teen dance party **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Llory Wilson's Tallulah Dance Company Workshop

WED
TWENTYEIGHT

Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open (no cover!) **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Billy Bragg, The Nields, The Low Road **Fire & Water:** Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm), Who's Who (9:30pm) **Katina's:** Blues Jam w/ Mark Nomad **Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum:** Seamus Connolly, with Cuchulan



Scott Ligon, leaning in the Valley



THU
TWENTYNINE

Pearl Street: The Bogmen, plus 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger **Bay State Hotel:** Truman's Water, Supreme Dicks, Hamlet Idiot, Crystal Muff **Katina's:** Selectrocution **Fire & Water:** Imaginary Ensemble **Black Sheep Cafe:** Dana Robinson **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Billy Bragg, The Nields, The Low Road

FRI
THIRTY

Katina's: K-Funk All Stars **Bay State Hotel:** Ray Mason Band, Cheri Knight w/ the Lonesome Brothers, Purr (members of The Sighs & Miss Reed) **Green River Cafe:** Cathy Winter **Fire & Water:** Laurence Jones, Mark Applegate & friends **Jasper's Topside:** Party Zone, w/ Stephan **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** live comedy **Pearl Street:** Sonia Dada (free show!), plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis **Common Ground (Bratt.):** Industrial Teepee

SAT
ONE

Fire & Water: **Katina's:** Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** √, Please!, Dingo Roi **Pearl Street:** Zoo Station (U2 tribute), plus Top 40 Dance Party **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** live comedy **Green River Cafe:** Stan Moller and T.S. Baker

SUN
TWO

Seven O's: Open mic w/ Mark Snow **Northampton Brewery:** Jaya the Cat, Soup **Pearl Street:** Clutch, Tad **Northampton Center for the Arts:**

MON
THREE

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Fire & Water:** Open stage (7pm)

TUE
FOUR

Hadley Pub: open mic **Northampton Brewery:** open mic, w/ host Rob Skelton **Pearl Street:** Teen dance party

WED
FIVE

Katina's: Blues Jam, w/ Mark Nomad **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State electric open (no cover) **Pearl Street:** Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Cheri Knight w/ the Lonesome Brothers **Fire & Water:** Word on Wednesday — open poetry (7pm) **Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum:** Harmony (gospel choir)

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

earthweek@aol.com

Earthquakes

The Russian Far East city of Neftegorsk was wrecked by a powerful tremor on the Kamchatka peninsula that may have killed 2,000 people. The region's oil-producing facilities were also heavily damaged.

A weak tremor at South Africa's Kloof gold mine near Westonaria unleashed a rock slide that killed three miners working more than 8,000 feet underground.

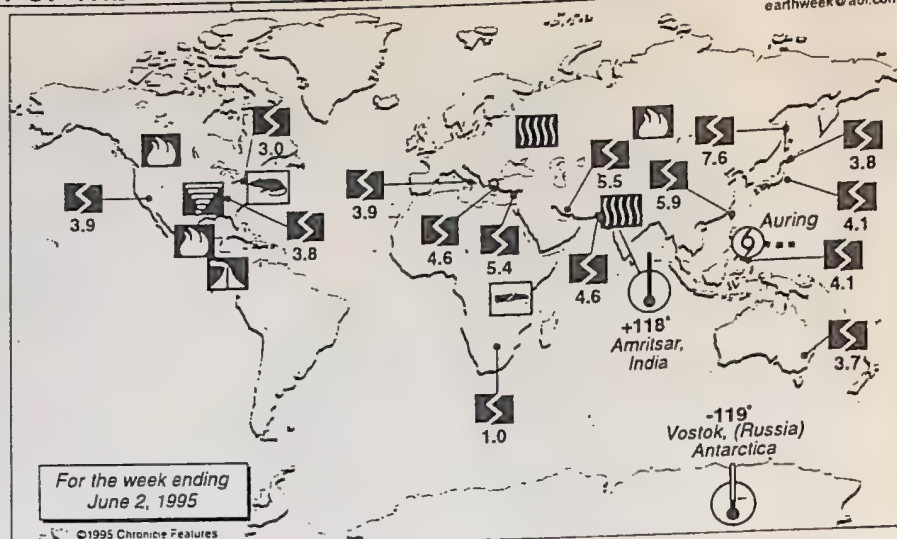
Earth movements were also felt in northern and eastern Japan, Taiwan, the southern Philippines, eastern Australia, southwest Pakistan, southern Iran, the Greek Islands, Cyprus, southern Italy, western New York State, western parts of Tennessee and Kentucky, and on the Nevada-California border.

American Twisters

One of the worst seasons for severe weather in recent years continued to produce destructive tornadoes across a wide area of the U.S. One twister tearing through San Angelo, Texas inflicted heavy damage to the downtown area. In western Massachusetts, three people were killed and 10 others were injured when a tornado struck a supermarket and ripped the roof off a nursing home in the town of Great Barrington. The rural Illinois town of Meredosia sustained heavy damage when a series of twisters raked Morgan County.

Volcano Alert

The Nicaraguan government issued a warning to residents near Cerro Negro Volcano when the mountain showed renewed activity after being dormant for more than three years. Wilfried Strauch, geophysics director of the country's Institute of Territorial Studies, said explosions were occurring every 30 minutes and smoke was being belched more than 300 feet into the atmosphere.



Wildfires

More than 13,000 acres of Siberian pine forest were ablaze in the Krasnoyarsk region because of human carelessness. Itar-Tass reported.

About 1,500 residents of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia were threatened by forest fires that charred 741,290 acres of woodland in western Canada.

A huge blaze raging through more than 1,000 square miles of Guatemalan forest near the borders of Mexico and Belize threatened important nature reserves and Mayan temple ruins. The government issued a plea for international help to deal with the disaster.

Tropical Storm

The season's first tropical storm in the northwestern Pacific, named Auring by the Philippine weather service, was predicted to bring 50-mph winds to Samar Island late in the week.

Heat Waves

Ten more people died from sunstroke and dehydration caused by unrelenting high heat in Pakistan and eastern India.

The hottest May in the Russian capital this century caused aging Lada automobiles to break down in clouds of steam, and cracked the concrete runway at Moscow's Sheremetyevo-2 international airport. Temperatures soared to a record 91.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

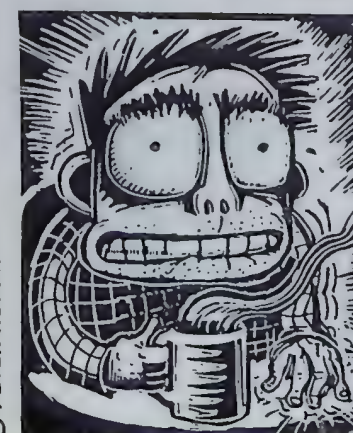
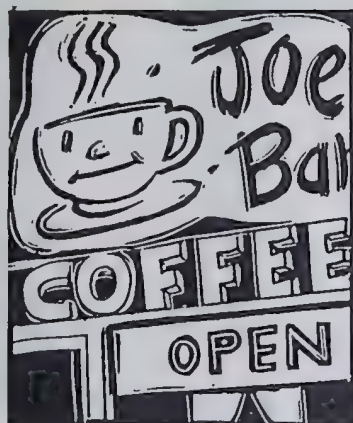
Locust Invasion

Hordes of locusts have caused widespread damage to agriculture in several regions of Burundi. Most of the damage was inflicted on grassland, but the pests have also hit banana plantations, haricot beans and other crops. Agricultural and provincial officials were ordered to monitor the tracks of the nomadic, rampaging insects across the central African nation.

Rat Craze

Workers in the New York City borough of The Bronx complained that cheap poison used by the Health Department to control rats was worsening the rodent problem and causing the pests to become "psychotic." The rats were strolling into offices in broad daylight, sending terrified workers screaming from the building. "I saw seven or eight scurrying from the main floor; they were the size of small cats, very big," said John Owens, an Office of Employment Services worker. Health Department spokesman Sam Friedman denied that the city's extermination efforts were making the rats crazy. The problem was made more frightening when workers found dead rats in their drawers and file cabinets, and the stench of rotting rodents filled the elevator shafts.

Additional Sources: Geological Survey of Canada, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization



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Hurricane Season

The season's first hurricane in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico formed south of Cuba, then brought high seas, tornadoes and local flooding to the southeastern U.S. as it passed over the region. Allison produced three days of heavy rains in Cuba which wrecked houses and swamped the streets of Havana, killing one person.

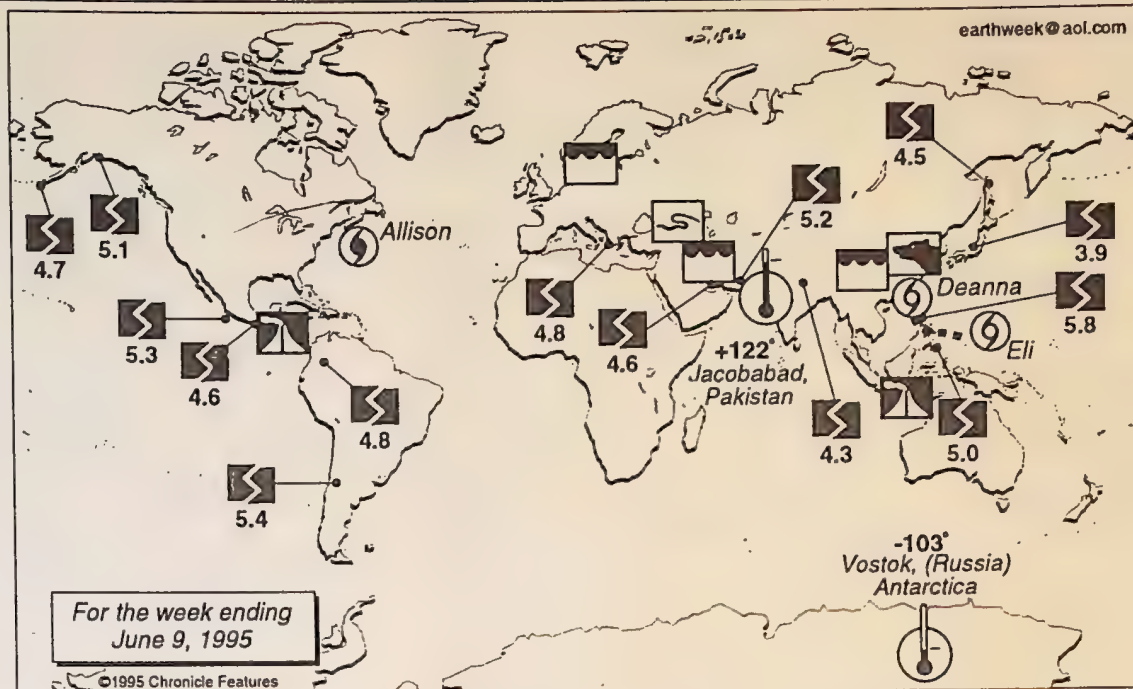
Boulders and walls of mud crashed down the Mayon Volcano in the Philippines as heavy rains from tropical storm Deanna drenched central parts of the country. More than 140 homes were buried in the debris. Tropical storm Eli formed to the west of the Mariana Islands.

Heat and Dust

Unrelenting heat over the western half of the Indian subcontinent claimed 40 more lives, brought the water shortage in New Delhi to a critical stage and sparked forest fires across the Himalayan foothills. As taps went dry in the Indian capital, two neighboring states agreed to restore precious water supplies to the parched city's 10 million residents. Thousands of acres of rich forest in northern Uttar Pradesh were blackened by wildfires that were finally brought under control late in the week.

Snake Plague

Kurds living in northern Iraq have been invaded by a plague of snakes that has killed at least five people and sent dozens to hospitals suffering from venomous bites. The countryside around Sulaymaniyah is swarming with snakes which flourished during the mild winter in the quiet ruins of hundreds of villages destroyed by Iraqi forces, and abandoned by Kurdish residents. A lack of serum for the venom of the rattlesnakes and yellow vipers in the region is heightening fears among the Kurds.

**Eruptions**

Cerro Negro Volcano continued its eruptive phase in western Nicaragua with blasts that sent rock and smoke 3,000 feet into the air. More violent eruptions are possible this month.

In Guatemala, Pacaya erupted with a cloud of hot ash that soared 3.5 miles high and burned vegetation surrounding the mountain, just north of the capital. Dozens of villagers were evacuated as Pacaya spewed lava down its slopes.

Mounting activity within Indonesia's Anak Krakatau (Son of Krakatoa) prompted officials to ban travel to the rumbling island. Up to 300 minor eruptions per day have occurred during the past month.

Floods

The worst flooding to strike Norway in 125 years caused massive disruption to road and rail links north and east of the capital of Oslo. Norwegian

troops helped evacuate 4,000 people from their homes and erected dikes to hold back the surging waters, caused by downpours and rapid snow melt.

Flash floods in Iran's Kurdistan Province swamped farmlands and orchards, and caused heavy damage to livestock. Four people were killed in the inundations that destroyed several villages.

Torrents in China's Sichuan Province left 63 people dead and injured 300 others after dozens of houses collapsed during flash floods.

Earthquakes

Worldwide seismic activity in populated areas remained high with a series of aftershocks rumbling beneath areas of northern Sakhalin Island, wrecked by a violent earthquake on May 28. Thirty buildings were damaged by the continuing tremors.

Scores of mud huts and shops were heavily damaged by a strong earthquake in southwestern Pak-

istan's Baluchistan Province.

Earth movements were also felt in the Philippines, Japan, western Nepal, southern Iran, western Greece, central Colombia, central Chile, western Mexico, the Aleutian Islands and southern Alaska.

Bear Rescue

Chinese police rescued four rare northeastern brown bear cubs from the plates of well-heeled diners when a tip-off led them to a restaurant in eastern Jiangsu Province. Inspectors found the four bruins at the Hongshi Restaurant which was about to slaughter the protected animals, mainly for bear paw soup, which is considered by many Chinese to be a delicacy. Those who can afford it will pay an enormous sum to eat the dish.

Additional Sources: U.S. National Hurricane Center, Cuban Weather Institute, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Country club record keepers say upkeep of just one golf hole costs an average of \$25,000 a year.

A traffic law in Israel's Negev requires camels to wear reflectors tied to their knees.

The original name of the shopping cart was "food taxi."

Q. How do people generally meet the person they are going to marry?
A. Eighteen percent meet in restaurants. Forty-four percent meet at work. Eleven percent meet in the homes of friends.

Lab researchers think the mouse population is about equally divided — half right-pawed and half left-pawed.

Rhode Island was named for the Greek island of Rhodes.

Q. What are the top three most popular street names in this country?
A. Park, Washington, and Maple, in that order.

Some of Canada is south of some of Nevada.

During the holiday season, you often see magazine pictures of turkeys roasted to a rich brown. For many of those camera shots, the turkeys were painted with shoe polish.

Real poker players understand that if you're dealt a pair, odds go up that your opponent has been dealt a pair.

How you read body language depends on where you are. In a business situation, you know it's time to go when the host gets up from the desk chair. In a social situation, you know it's time to go when the host leans back in the armchair.

Q. What do the letters "M&M" stand for?

A. Initials of the inventors: Forrest Mars and Bruce Murrie.

The female chimpanzee may mate as many as 50 times in one day.

Not everyone knows that the voice of the horse on "Mr. Ed" was George Burns.

Palm trees grow in some parts of Ireland.

Q. In the oldtime general stores, cloth was called "dry goods." Was there also such a thing as "wet goods?"

A. Yes. It was rum. Lots of early stores were run by New England merchant shippers. Their main cargoes were calico and rum. They put the cloth on one side of the store and the rum on the other.

All rattlesnakes swim well.

Most domestic animals were domesticated by humankind. The cat, it's said, is unique in that it domesticated itself.

Q. What's an idiopathic disease?

A. "Idiopathic" basically means, "nobody knows what causes it."

Grownups eat more hot dogs than kids do.

Blondes have been subjected to a bum rap that started at least 2,000 years ago. A law in ancient Rome required prostitutes to wear yellow hair.

The word "athlete" comes from a Greek word meaning "prize-seeker."

From the Possible Origins of Common Food Dept.: an 1890 Buffalo, NY, cookbook included a recipe for a chopped-beef sandwich called a "hamburger," made by two brothers, Frank and Charles Menches. They'd shown up too late to get their usual supply of chopped pork at the Erie County Agricultural Fair in Hamburg, NY. So the butcher sold them chopped beef instead, and they named the sandwich they cooked up after the town.

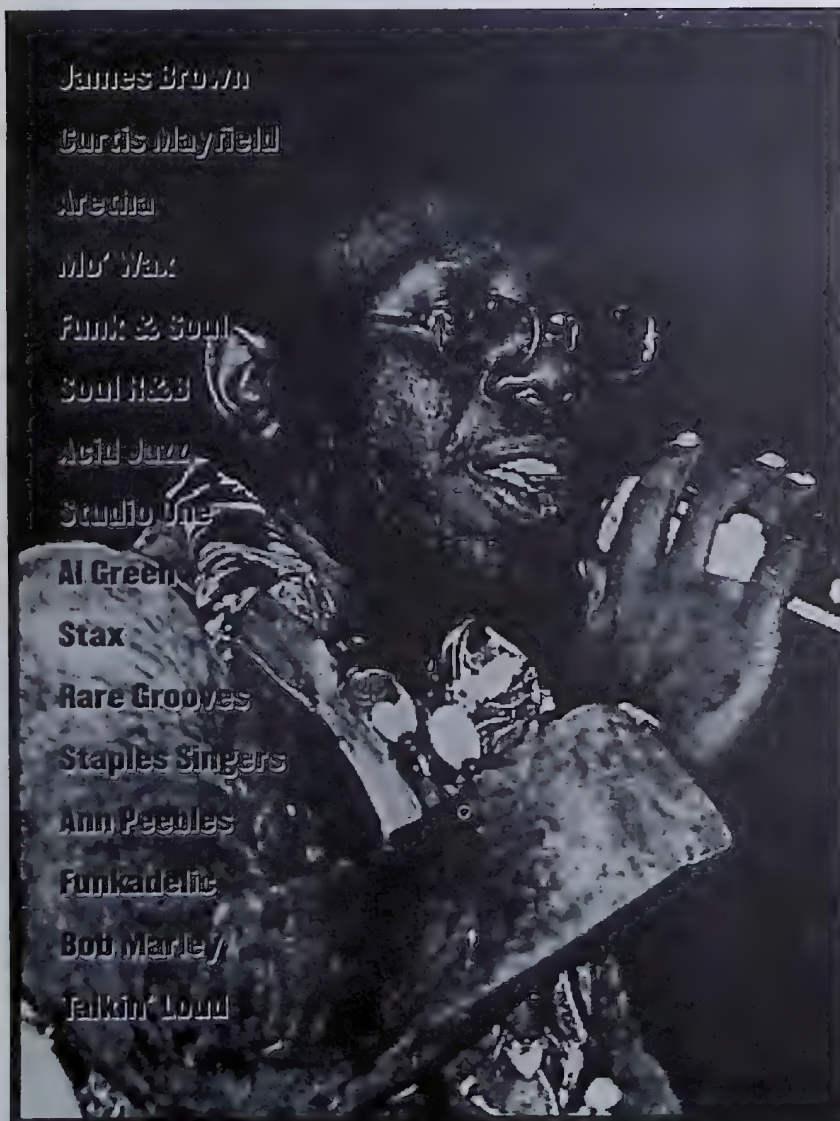
Q. What's the difference between the "shore" and the "coast"?

A. The shore is the edge of the water. The coast is the edge of the land.

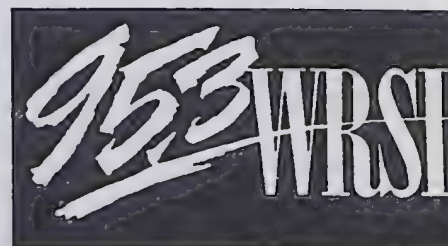
It would take three average-sized suitcases of \$20 bills to make \$1 million.

How do you suppose London got such a reputation for rain? It only gets about 24 inches a year. New York City gets 44 inches, typically, and it's not known worldwide for rain. Neither is Houston, and it gets 45 inches.

Vermont law prohibits whistling underwater.



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GO! WHAT ON EARTH WOULD
MAKE A BUG HURRY?



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YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF,
STUPID! NOTHING YOU DO
IS IMPORTANT! YOU'RE
JUST A BUG!



OH MY GOSH, LOOK
AT THE TIME!



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I'M A MAN
OF FEW
WORDS.



MAYBE IF YOU READ MORE,
YOU'D HAVE A LARGER
VOCABULARY.



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IT'S HOT, IT'S HUMID,
IT'S BUGGY, THERE'S
NO BREEZE, AND
THE AIR IS FULL
OF POLLEN.



BUT IT'S
SUMMER!



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HELLO?

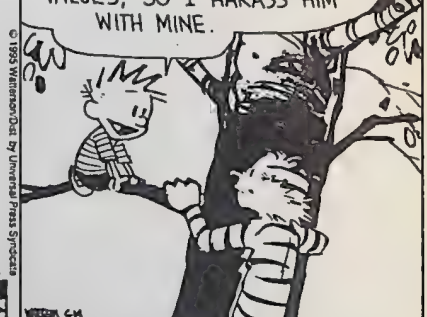
IT SURRRRE
IS NICE OUTSIDE!
CLIMB A TREE!
GOOF OFF!



CLICK



DAD HARASSES ME WITH HIS
VALUES, SO I HARASS HIM
WITH MINE.

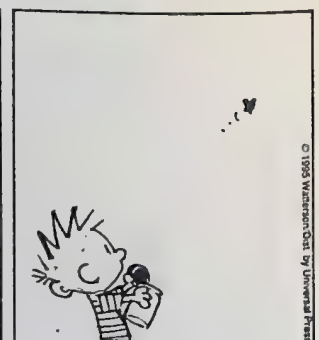


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LOOK! I
CAUGHT A
BUTTERFLY!



IF PEOPLE COULD
PUT RAINBOWS
IN ZOOS, THEY'D
DO IT.



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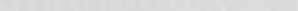
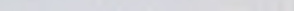
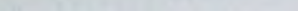
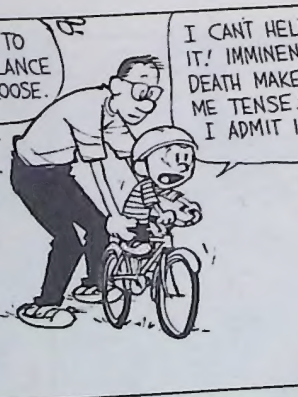
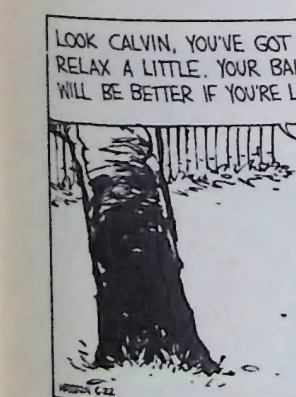
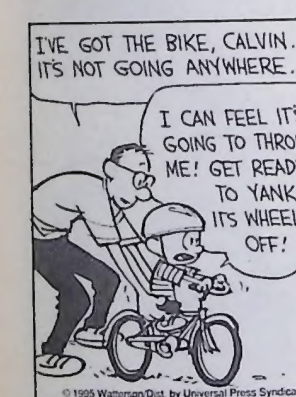
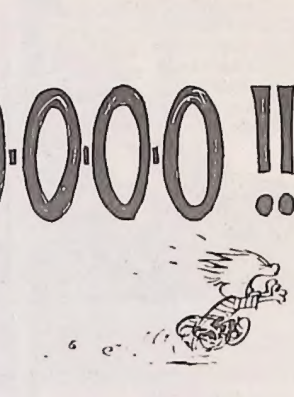
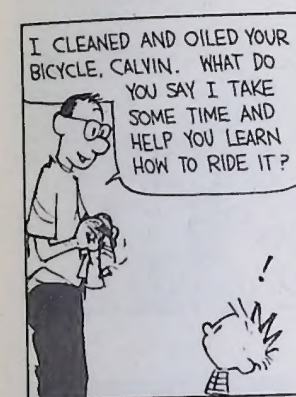
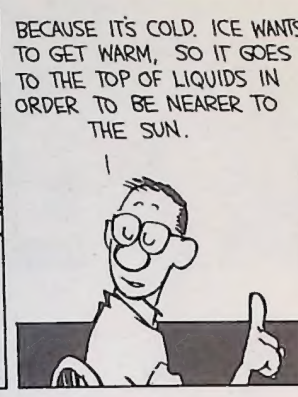
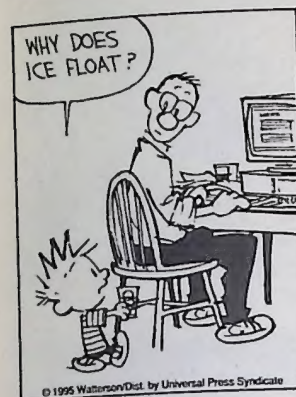
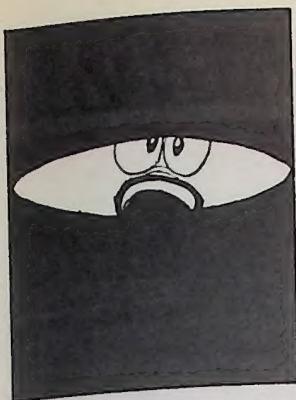
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by Roger & Salem Salloom

Dear Lynn,

Sometimes when I visit my Uncle Petain I stare out of his living room window for hours. I always sit in one of his stuffed easy chairs.

All day long he plays classical music around the house. If I sit long enough by the window I drift into another world... like a trance. I become peaceful and content. If it happens to rain, then I get even better... you know, uh... urban nirvana.

The rain hits the window and patters on the sill... the world below makes sense... everything makes sense.

If I sit there long enough maybe I'll make sense.

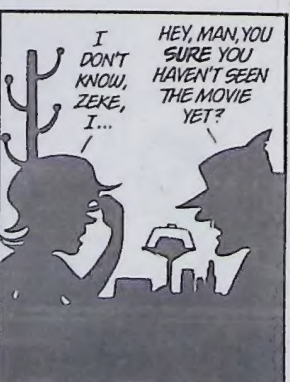
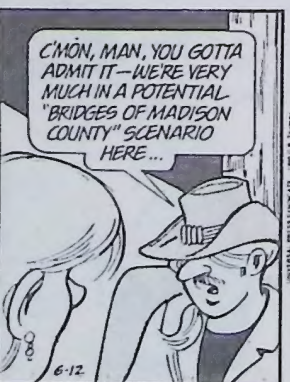
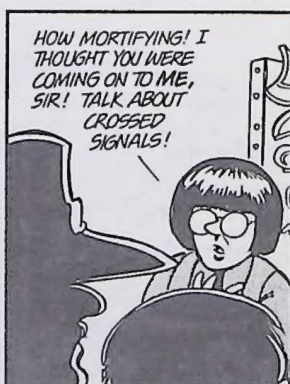
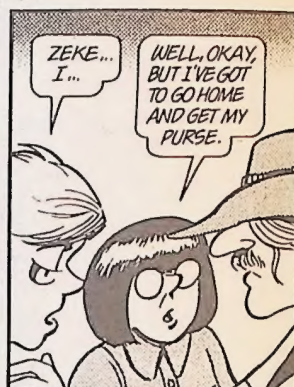
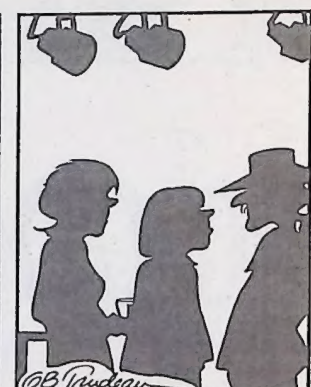
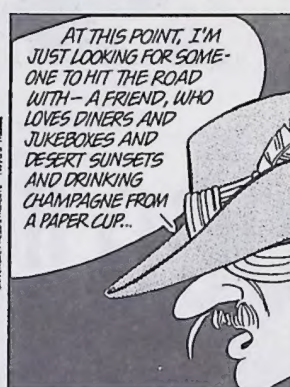
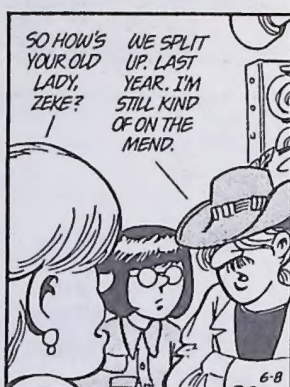
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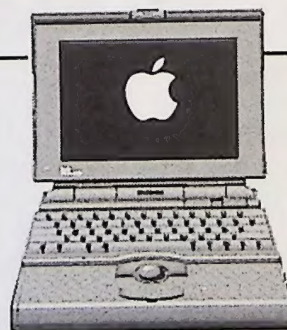


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